

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 ANKARA 006498

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Bush to Barzani: Iraq's Territorial Integrity Must be
Protected - Hurriyet
Bush Warns Barzani on PKK, Kirkuk, Turkmen - Milliyet
Bush Pressures Barzani to Solve PKK Problem - Aksam
Barzani: We Want Security, Not Sovereignty - Turkiye
Talat Asks for Direct Flights to northern Cyprus - Milliyet
Erdogan: I Invite Iran to Political Moderation - Hurriyet
Wilson Bush's Ambassador to Ankara - Sabah
Bush Says 'Wilson' for Ankara - Milliyet
World Leaders Tough on Ahmadinajad - Sabah
Reactions to Ahmadinajad Grow - Aksam
Israeli Missiles Strike Gaza: 7 Killed - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

EU Leaders Disagree on Globalization - Cumhuriyet
Reactions Continue against Ahmadinajad - Cumhuriyet
US: Teheran's True Face Revealed - Yeni Safak
West Furious at Ahmadinajad - Radikal
Rafsanjani: Ahmadinajad is Unsuccessful - Yeni Safak
Damascus Invites US to Dialogue - Yeni Safak
As-Sadr Enters into Election Alliance with Sunnis - Yeni
Safak
Shiites-Sunnis Clash in Iraq: 23 Killed - Cumhuriyet
'Peace Mother' Sheehan is Detained - Cumhuriyet
Sheehan the New Rosa Parks - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

US Gives Clear Messages to Barzani: President Bush urged
the 'regional president of Kurdistan' Massoud Barzani to
seek good ties with Turkey, and stressed the importance of
Iraq's territorial integrity and the fight against PKK
terrorism, Turkish papers report. An unidentified US
official told "Hurriyet" that Bush and Barzani share the
same view with regard to Iraq's territorial integrity. The
official said that Turkey had been given detailed
information about the talks with Barzani: 'We know Turkey's
concerns, and we respect Turkish views. We have not
forgotten Turkey's position during our discussions with
Barzani.' "Turkiye" writes that Secretary Rice gave Barzani
a similar warning. "Milliyet" quotes a Turkish diplomat as
saying that despite the fact that Barzani was given a
'presidential' welcome, Turkey had been pleased by the
messages given to the northern Iraqi Kurdish leader by US
officials. When asked about the PKK issue yesterday in
Washington, Barzani said that the issue should be resolved
'in a peaceful and democratic way.' He added that 'if
Turkey were to make such a decision, we would do everything
possible to support it. Turkey is our friend and neighbor.
We will not do anything to harm Turkey's interests.'

White House Announces Intention to Nominate Wilson: Most
papers report a White House statement yesterday announcing
President Bush's intention to nominate Ross Wilson as the
new US ambassador to Turkey. Several papers note that
Ankara had previously given its concurrence to Wilson's
nomination.

Erdogan Attends EU Summit in London: Prime Minister Tayyip
Erdogan said that Turkey will not open its ports and
airports to Greek Cypriot vessels and aircraft unless the
sanctions imposed on the Turkish Cypriots are removed.
Erdogan, in London to attend a gathering of EU heads of
government, told a press conference on Thursday that EU
leaders had pledged to take action to end the isolation of
northern Cyprus. Erdogan recalled that the Greek Cypriots
entered the EU just a week after they rejected a UN-
sponsored peace plan for the reunification of the divided
island. 'Turkey will immediately do what is necessary if
they end the blockade. We have always been the constructive

side. Now we expect a positive approach from them,' Erdogan emphasized. Turkey had already proposed a simultaneous lifting of restrictions imposed on the Turkish and Greek parts of Cyprus. Asked about the timeframe for approval of Turkey's extension of its customs union additional protocol by the parliament, Erdogan said that Ankara had not yet made a decision on the issue. 'Discussions continue, and we will make a decision later after talking with EU Commission officials,' Erdogan said.

Erdogan Opens Turkish Center at LSE: On Thursday, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan opened the new Turkish Studies Center at the London School of Economics (LSE). Erdogan thanked all who contributed to the establishment of the Center, noting that he believed it would contribute to compromise and dialogue among civilizations. 'We may have different historical experiences and belief systems, but we are all living together on the basis of humanity. Violence and a clash of cultures threaten the world,' Erdogan noted.

Erdogan on Ahmadinejad's Israel Remarks: Speaking at a press availability on the sidelines of the EU Summit in London on Thursday, Prime Minister Erdogan, asked about comments by Iranian President Ahmadinejad that Israel should be 'wiped off the map,' warned Tehran not to meddle in other countries' ties with Israel. 'I invite them to political moderation' Erdogan said, and added: 'Every country has the right to carry out its relations with others in the way it deems necessary. Other countries do not have the right to interfere. It would be better for them to consider their own affairs.' The Iranian President had lashed out at Muslim countries that recognize Israel for 'hoisting the flag of surrender,' adding that such countries will face the 'wrath' of their people. Erdogan also strongly denied Turkish press reports claiming that the US Administration plans to establish a Muslim peacekeeping force in Iraq, saying that this is 'a colossal lie.'

Talat in the US: Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat told a meeting held by the Brookings Institute and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington that the most appropriate step to end the isolation of Turkish Cypriots would be to renew efforts on the basis of the UN-sponsored peace plan. He added that removal of the blockade against Turkish Cypriots would also help relations between Turkey and Greece. Talat said the Turkish Cypriots wanted arrangements that will encourage trade rather than monetary assistance, stating that the release of the 259 million Euros pledged by the European Union was 'not that important' for the 'TRNC.' Talat praised the 'very positive attitude' displayed in the visits by US Congressmen and businessmen to northern Cyprus. Talat noted that the invitation made by Secretary Rice for him to visit the United States was 'encouraging.' He stressed that direct US and international flights to and from Ercan Airport in northern Cyprus will help a great deal in ending the isolation of the 'TRNC.' Talat also urged Washington to open a representation office in northern Cyprus.

MFA Criticizes Prescott for Calling Turkey an "Occupier" in Cyprus: The Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) said that British Deputy PM John Prescott's remarks describing Turkey as an 'illegal occupying force' in Cyprus had been 'unfortunate,' papers report. An MFA statement said yesterday that the deputy PM of a country with a guarantor status in Cyprus had made remarks that 'distorted the truth.' Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat had earlier criticized Prescott for not being familiar with the Cyprus issue.

Logoglu Urges Kurds to Stay Committed to a Unitary Iraq: Turkey's Ambassador to the US, Faruk Logoglu, said on Friday that the US should urge the Iraqi Kurds, who have announced their commitment to the idea of a united Iraq, to keep their promise. 'What is important is the declaration by the Iraqi Kurdish group, published in "The Washington Post," that it is committed to a united Iraq. Everybody, and particularly the US, should urge the Kurds to keep this promise,' Logoglu told a meeting held by the Turkey-US Chamber of Commerce in Washington.

MFA Condemns Hadera Attack: The Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) condemned on Friday the terrorist attack that killed 5 and wounded more than 10 in Hadera, Israel, saying in a statement that this attack aimed at blocking efforts to bring peace and stability to the region. 'We expect the sides not to allow the opponents of peace to achieve their goal, to behave in a moderate way, and to refrain from acts that may fuel violence,' the MFA said.

138 Turkish Companies Accused of Illegal Trade with Saddam Regime: A UN report revealed that 138 Turkish firms illegally profited from illicit trade that bypassed sanctions against Iraq under Saddam Hussein as part of the UN oil-for-food program, "Hurriyet" reports. 2,000 companies around the world, including 138 Turkish businesses, are accused of paying millions of dollars to

Saddam in an effort to secure oil deals, according to a new report released by an independent UN commission. Six Turkish companies including Tupras, Delta, Tekfen Foreign Trade, Erdem Holding, Seta Construction, Petroleum and Transportation, and Emin Foreign Trade are accused of paying a total of 6.3 million USD in kickbacks to Saddam's regime. The report says that the recently privatized Turkish Petroleum Corporation (Tupras) paid 1.9 billion USD to Iraq for 10 oil deals, and claims that Tupras gave 470,000 USD in illegal payments to the regime. UN Secretary-General Annan has asked UN member states to impose sanctions on the implicated companies. A UN report released in September had claimed that Turkey, along with Jordan and Syria, had breached the embargoes imposed by illegally importing oil from Iraq.

Child Abuse at Malatya Orphanage: Revelations about the mistreatment of children at an orphanage in the eastern city of Malatya sparked outrage when footage aired on Tuesday night on "Star TV" showed orphans being badly beaten and humiliated by the state-run orphanage staff. The parliamentary human rights committee has assigned a delegation to investigate the case. Psychiatrists said they detected symptoms of depression among the children. Papers highlight that Prime Minister Erdogan said the abuse of helpless orphans is a 'crime against humanity,' adding that those responsible will be punished. Five women have been arrested on charges of mistreating children, and are expected to be tried for torture. They could face prison sentences of 8-15 years. Papers say that torture is common not only in Malatya, but in most orphanages around Turkey. They further note that child abuse is also common in many homes, underlining widespread domestic violence in Turkey. "Radikal" says that problems in orphanages had been highlighted in several reports prepared by state officials in the past. State Minister Nimet Cubukcu and her predecessor, Guldal Aksit, had been warned about the problems, but measures for solving these problems have been delayed. "Sabah" faults the AKP government, saying that the specialists in charge of the Malatya orphanage had been removed, and replaced by persons close to AKP. A column in "Sabah" says that the AKP government's efforts to make partisan appointments had paved the way to 'Abu Ghraib-type horrors' in Malatya orphanage. Dailies criticize the fact that State Minister Cubukcu, who is responsible for orphanages, had not bothered to cut her trip to the UK short to return to deal with the scandal in Malatya. "Milliyet" calls for the resignation of the officials responsible for the incidents in Malatya. The paper asks whether 'only the nurses will pay the price for torture, or will the government punish all who are responsible for the scandal?' "Milliyet" warned that the abuse scandal had become an important test for Turkey's progress toward the EU.

Court Rules against Closure of Egitim-Sen: The teachers' union Egitim-Sen won a legal battle against closure on Thursday when a court ruled that the union will remain open after it removed from its statutes references to 'education in languages other than Turkish,' papers report. Prosecutors had demanded the closure of the left-leaning union on the grounds that its statutes, which refer to 'education in mother tongues,' conflicted with the Turkish Constitution. Egitim-Sen said it viewed the verdict as a positive step toward democratization.

EU to Urge Turkey to Allow Education in Mother Tongues: The European Commission will urge Turkey to allow instruction in Kurdish in schools through constitutional changes, "Cumhuriyet" claims. At present, schoolchildren are taught only in Turkish. The EU Commission's Turkey progress report, to be released on November 9, will push Ankara to change a constitutional provision barring the use of languages other than Turkish in schools, stressing that EU harmonization will not be possible without amending this provision. The EU draft report says that Turkey had made no progress in protecting cultural rights, and points to restrictions in education in mother languages. The report also criticizes bureaucratic obstacles encountered by Kurdish language schools, according to "Cumhuriyet."

US Soldiers Vacation in 'Occupied' Cyprus: The Greek Cypriot daily "Filelevtheros" carried a story yesterday claiming that US soldiers who serve on bases in Turkey vacationed in the 'occupied areas' of Cyprus last year. The US soldiers fly to the 'occupied areas' directly, according to the report. This move is part of a US policy to 'upgrade the occupation regime,' and was decided after last year's twin referenda. Diplomatic sources said that the soldiers spend their holidays in Cyprus at their own initiative, visiting Cyprus as tourists or private individuals.

AKP Lawmakers Will Boycott Republic Day Reception: "Vatan" says that AKP lawmakers invited to attend the annual Republic Day reception at the presidential palace without their wives were planning to boycott the event. President Sezer invited university rectors to attend the reception

with their spouses, while Prime Minister Erdogan, AKP lawmakers and cabinet ministers with wives wearing headscarves have been invited to attend the reception alone. "Vatan" claims that AKP lawmakers will return their invitations to Sezer. "Yeni Safak" reports on its front page that Hayrunnisa Gul, wife of Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, is planning to give a 'lesson in civility' to Sezer by inviting him to attend a Republican Ball to be held on November 8 together with his wife.

Commuter Bus Set on Fire in Istanbul: Unidentified assailants tossed fire bombs toward a commuter bus in Istanbul's Kucukcekmece district on Thursday, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency (AA) reported. Four masked attackers then stopped the bus and forced the passengers to disembark before pouring gasoline and setting the bus ablaze. All four attackers escaped after the incident.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/Rove and Libby Case

"Bush is Trying to Avoid the Scandal"
Ferai Tinc stated in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (10/28):
"You may wonder about the reasons for the presence of Barzani in the White House. Turkish Foreign Ministry officials were even wondering if the next step for Bush would be to meet with every provincial leader of Iraq in Washington. The fact is that President Bush and his aides are trying to change the political agenda in order to take the sting out of a serious domestic scandal. Barzani's visit to the White House as president of Iraqi Kurdistan is part of this scenario. . The White House is trying to influence public opinion at a time when support for the war has sunk to about 30 percent. The message being given to the public is about the success of the Iraq operation, the strong support from Iraqis for the US presence, and the fact that Iraq has been saved from a bloody dictator. The approval of the constitution, the upcoming elections, and the trial of Saddam are also part of the message targeted at the American public. The Bush administration is trying to highlight these messages by ignoring its past argument about weapons of mass destruction as the main reason for the war. This is because of an ongoing investigation in Washington that is soon to be concluded, and it proves that the Bush administration distorted the facts in order to justify the occupation."

"A Civil War has started in Iraq"
Erdal Guven observed in the conservative-sensational "Tercuman" (10/28): "As expected, a civil war has erupted in Iraq. At least 23 people died in clashes between the Sunni and Shiite insurgents. The number of casualties grows every day. What will happen next? As US support for the Kurds grows, the unrest in Iraq grows even faster. The US cannot protect Iraq's territorial integrity with this kind of approach. . As we will see in the future, the unrest and clashes will spread all over Iraq in a very short period of time, and the US administration will request Turkey's help in order to end the violence. It is not possible for the US to control this region on its own. No matter how fervently the US supports the Kurds, peace in Iraq cannot be established. The Iraq issue cannot be solved without Turkey."

MCELDOWNEY